

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 SAM-01 DHA-02 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 /108 W

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O P 221417Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2358

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 170

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 8554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION NOVEMBER 21-22

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REF: BEIRUT 8546 (DTG 201352Z NOV 76)

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT SARKIS' NOV 21 ADDRESS MAINLY DEVOTED TO RECONSTRUCTION. ASF PHASE III DEPLOYMENTS IN SOUTH, NORTH AND SHUF OCCURRED NOV 21 WITHOUT INCIDENT. ASF TROOPS ENTERING TRIPOLI FOUND CITY LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY LONG MONTHS OF WAR. ISRAELI ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS REPORTED IN SOUTH LEBANON AS WELL AS ROCKET ATTACK ON ISREELI COASTAL TOWN OF NAHARIYAH. NATIONAL MOVEMENT COMMUNIQUE ATTACKS ISOLATIONIST FORCES IN SOUTH AND GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE MEDIA. ASF NOV 21 PUBLISHED SERIES OF SECURITY REGULATIONS. SAIQA TO REESTABLISH IN FORMER OFFICES NEAR WEST BEIRUT. PRESS COMMENTARY SAYS PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN TALKS LAST WEEK UNSECCESFUL. KLM TO REINSTITUTE FLIGHTS INTO BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS. PRESIDENT SARKIS DEVOTED MOST OF HIS 20-MINUTE NOV 21 SPEECH TO RECONSTRUCTION. SARKIS SCARCELY ADDRESSED POLITICAL ISSUES AND DID NOT MENTION FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT (SEPTEL).

3. PHASE III IMPLEMENTED. ASF DEPLOYED NOV 21 IN THE NORTH, THE SOUTH AND THE SHUF AREAS AFTER ADDITIONAL SYRIAN FORCES APPARENTLY ENTERED LEBANON. MAIN CENTERS OF CONCENTRATION WERE: IN THE NORTH, TRIPOLI (INCLUDING PORT AND REFINERY), ZGHORTA AND PALESTINIAN CAMP AT NAHR AL-BARED; IN THE SHUF, DAMUR; AND IN THE SOUTH, SIDON AND ZAHRANI REFINERY (WHICH MAY RESUME PRODUCTION WITHIN TWO DAYS). ALL OPERATIONS OCCURRED BETWEEN 1100 AND 1330 NOV 21 WITH NO HOSTILE INCIDENTS REPORTED. SOME 200 SYRIAN HEAVY TANKS WERE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED. IN ADDITION TO SYRIANS, LIBYANS AND SUDANESE PARTICIPATED AT SIDON; TRIPOLI OPERATION INCLUDED NORTH YEMENI AND SAUDI ARABIAN TROOPS. DIRECT ROADS BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA REMAIN CLOSED. IN BOTH TRIPOLI AND SIDON ASF WARMLY RECEIVED BY POPULATION. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTS "A VERY SMALL CONTINGENT MIGHT BE SYMBOLICALLY PLACED AT THE PORT OF TYRE' IN THE SOUTH, BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET THAT ANY ASF TROOPS HAVE ADVANCED SOUTH OF ZAHRANI.

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4. TRIPOLI LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY WAR. ASF DISCOVERED TRIPOLI SUFFERED VERY LITTLE FROM WAR. SOME BUILDINGS WERE BURNED IN COMMERCIAL CENTER AND ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE OUTSIDE CITY, BUT CITIZENS SAID THEY LACKED VERY LITTLE DURING MONTHS OF WAR, EXCEPT MEDICAL SUPPLIES. FAROUK MOKKADEM, LEADER OF LEFTIST TRIPOLITANIAN "OCTOBER 23 MOVEMENT" SAID CITY HAD STOCKPILED FOOD PRIOR TO SEIGE AND HAD MADE FULL USE OF PORT DURING WAR.

MOKKADEM ALSO SAID HE FAVORED DECENTRALIZATION OF LEBANON.

5. THE SOUTH. BEIRUT PRESS NOV 22 REPORTS AFP DISPATCHES FROM TEL AVIV AND HAIFA. TEL AVIV DISPATCH, QUOTING MAARIV, REPORTED ISRAELI WARNING TO SYRIA TRANSMITTED VIA US THAT IT WOULD NOT PERMIT PRESENCE OF SYRIAN TROOPS ALONG LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. DISPATCH FROM HAIFA CLAIMS SEVERAL KATUSHA ROCKETS FIRED ON ISRAELI COASTAL TOWN OF NAHARIYAH FROM SOUTH LEBANON. LAA COMMUNIQUE NOV 21 REPORTS ISRAELI ARTILLERY BOMBARDED BINT JBAYL AND NEARBY VILLAGES FOR SOME THREE HOURS BEGINNING 1140 NOV 21. PFLP CLAIMS MORE THAN 300 SHELLS HIT BINT JBAYL AND SURROOUNDINGS. LAA ARTILLERY RESPONDED.

6. NATIONAL MOVEMENT. KAMAL JUNBLATT PRESIDED OVER NOV 20 MEETING OF "EVERGENCY COMMITTEE" OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN MUKHTARA. AGENDA COVERED SOUTH LEBANON, NATIONAL MOVEMENT-PALESTINAIN RESISTANCE RELATIONS, AND RESULTS OF SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN CONTACTS. COMMUNIQUE STATED "ISOLATIONIST FORCES" HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ASF MOVEMENTS IN OTHER LEBANESE REGIONS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ALONG SOUTHERN FRONTIER. COMMUNIQUE ALSO ATTACKED "ASSAULTS AGAINST DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND IN PARTICULAR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS" BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, ACCUSING GOVERNMENT OF ESTABLISHING "INFORMATION BLACKOUTS" STIFLING "NATIONAL VOICES HOSTILE TO ISRAEL AND IMPERIALISM."

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2359  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 171  
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COM THREE FOUR MAU  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
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DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 8554

7. ASF SECURITY MEASURES. IN NOV 21 COMMUNIQUE, ASF  
ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING SERIES OF SECURITY DIRECTIVES:

A. ANYONE FOUND CARRYING ARMS WILL BE ARRESTED.  
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(IN FACT, DANY CHAMOUN APPREHENDED NOV 21 AT ASF  
ROADBLOCK WHEN HIS BODYGUARD FOUND CARRYING ILLEGAL  
WEAPON. WEAPON WAS LATER RETURNED AFTER MATTER BROUGHT  
TO ATTENTION OF OFFICIALS AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. ASF  
TO DATE HAS NOT ISSUED WEAPONS LICENSES TO ANY CIVILIANS.)

B. ASF WILL RETURN FIRE WHEN FIRED UPON.

C. ASF WILL ESTABLISH FIXED AND FLYING ROADBLOCKS AS WELL  
AS CONTROL PRINCIPAL ROUTES, TRAFFIC CIRCLES AND BRIDGES.

D. VIOLATORS OF THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE ARRESTED  
AND TAKEN BEFORE LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

E. BARRICADES TO BE CLEARED; FORTIFICATIONS WILL BE DESTROYED.

F. WEARING OF MILITARY UNIFORMS, EXCEPT BY MILITARY  
PERSONNEL CARRYING OFFICIAL ID CARDS, IS FORBIDDEN.

G. MILITARY-TYPE VEHICLES CARRYING OR DESIGNED TO CARRY HEAVY WEAPONS NOT PERMITTED ON STREETS AND WILL BE SEIZED.

H. ALL HEAVY WEAPONS, SUCH AS TANKS, ARMORED VEHICLES, TROOP TRANSPORTS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, ROCKET LAUNCHERS, ETC., WILL BE COLLECTED (BUT NO MENTION OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS OR COLLECTION DATE).

I. ASF WILL COOPERATE WITH LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TO PERMIT THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR BARRACKS.

J. ALL ARMED ELEMENTS MUST EVACUATE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

K. NO ONE PERMITTED TO DRIVE WITHOUT VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE. THOSE DOING SO WILL BE ARRESTED AND THEIR VEHICLES CONFISCATED.

L. COLLECTING OF FUNDS AND SELLING NEWSPAPERS UNDER DURESS FORBIDDEN.

M. ASF WILL RESPOND TO ALL COMPLAINTS OR REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE PUBLIC.

8. SAIQA. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, SAIQA WILL  
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REPOSSESS ITS OFFICES IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS NEAR WEST BEIRUT AS RESULT OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PLO AND SYRIANS REACHED LAST WEEK. FORMER SAIQA OFFICES WERE PUT UNDER CLAP (PALESTINIAN MILITARY POLICE) PROTECTION AFTER NOV 17 CLASH BETWEEN SAIQA AND PDFLP.

9. PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS. DESPITE REPORTED AGREEMENT ON SAIQA, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR COMMENTARY CALLS PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN TALKS OF LAST WEEK UNSECCESFUL. ACCORDING TO PALESTINIANS, SYRIANS MADE UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS. COMMENTARY ALSO NOTED SEVERAL ARAB KINGS AND CHIEFS OF STATE TOLD ARAFAT THEY CONDEMNED PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE LEFTIST ALLIANCE AS INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ARAFAT TRAVELLED AGAIN TO DAMASCUS NOV 21, AND IS EXPECTED THIS TIME TO VISIT SEVERAL OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. AL MUHARRIR REPORTS FAROUK AL-KADDOUMI, PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD IN PARIS, SAYS IMPROVEMENT IN LEBANESE SITUATION WILL ALLOW PALESTINAIAN RESISTANCE TO CONCENTRATE ON ISRAEL. PLO ASSISTANT SECGEN, AHMAD ABBAS, ANNOUNCED NATIONAL PALESTINIAN COUNCIL TO HOLD SESSION DEC 7 AT ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO.

10. AIRPORT: ANOTHER AIRLINE, KLM, ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS IN BEIRUT, TO BEGIN NOV 27 WITH FLIGHTS WEEKLY FROM AMSTERDAM.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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